

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 05895 131556Z

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 MC-02 OMB-01 SAM-01 ACDA-05 IO-10 /087 W

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R 131349Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4563

INFO AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR EGEN EG UK

SUBJECT: FONMIN FAHMY'S DISCUSSION WITH BRITISH

REF LONDON 8945

1. ENGLISH-LANGUAGE PRESS JUNE 13 HEADLINES ANNOUNCEMENT BY EGYPTIAN SPOKESMAN IN LONDON ON JUNE 12 TO EFFECT THAT AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED ON 400-450 MILLION POUNDS (STERLING) ARMS PURCHASE IN UK AS RESULT FAHMY TALKS WITH HMG.

2. ARTICLE STATES THAT FCO OFFICIALS REFUSED TO CONFIRM DEAL, AND ARE QUOTED AS SAYING EGYPTIANS MAY HAVE GIVEN "SLIGHTLY OPTIMISTIC" PICTURE OF WHAT WAS ACHIEVED. FAHMY WAS REPORTED AS BEING TOO TIRED TO ATTEND PRESS CONFERENCE AT WHICH ANNOUNCEMENT WAS MADE, BUT SPOKESMAN QUOTED HIM AS CONFIRMING ARMS AGREEMENT, SAYING TALKS WERE "HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL" AND HE WAS "DELIGHTED" WITH THEM.

3. COMMENT: ARABIC LANGUAGE PRESS MADE NO REFERENCE
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TO ARMS DEAL OR FIGURES INVOLVED. THIS MAY REFLECT

TIME-LAG IN MAKING NECESSARY TRANSLATIONS, AND STORY
COULD APPEAR TOMORROW AS OFTEN HAPPENS. EGYPTIAN
PRESS HAS PENCHANT FOR CARRYING NON-FACTUAL STORIES,
PARTICULARLY THOSE INVOLVING MONEY MATTERS. WE ARE
CHECKING WITH UK EMBASSY SOURCES WHETHER THEY CAN
CONFIRM ABOVE.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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